THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per "World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended classified by hazard", Endosulfan has been clasified as a "moderately hazardous" pesticide. It is reported to have been banned/severely restricted in 12 countries of the world because of the prevailing agro-climatic conditions and based on the specific requirements of those countries.

(b) and (c) Endosulfan is being used in the country, except in Kerala, where the High Court of Kerala has, vide its interim order dated 12/08/2002, imposed a ban on the use of Endosulfan within the State of Kerala, pending a final decision by the Central Government on the report of the Expert Committe appointed by the Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to look into the report of National Institute of Occupational Health on its investigation of unusual illness allegedly reported by exposure to Endosulfan due to aerial spraying of Endosulfan over the cashew plantations in Padre Village of Kasargod District in N. Kerala with regard to higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defect and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected area.

The Expert Committee has submitted its report to the Registration Committee and the Government is examining the report to arrive at a definite conclusion.

Effectiveness of Jalkumbhi Compost

†2083. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compost made of 'Jalkumbhi" a typical water plant is more effective that manure for enhancing agricultural yield;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any step to promote its use; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The compost prepared from "Jalkumbhi" (water hyacinth) is rich in nitrogen compared to other composts. Its co-composting with other organic residues and rock phosphate is recommended for better results for enhancing agricultural yield.

The Government is promoting the use of various sources of organic manures including compost from water hyacinth as a supplementary source of nutrients. The promotion of compost from ruban bio-degradable waste is being promote under the scheme of Balanced and integrated use of fertilizers.

Effect of Pre-Monsoon Rains on Kharif Crops

2084. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the below normal rains in the pre-monsoon season and the delay in the onset of South-West monsoon had affected sowing of early kharif cereals and rice;

(b) if so, whether this would have any adverse impact on production of these grains; and

(c) if so, the likely fall in the production of these grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The onset of south-west monsoon was delayed by 7—10 days in some parts of the country. Since optimum sowing time of each